



Base welcomes new 'commanders' during ceremony

By Capt. Michael Meridith
Public affairs

Base personnel and their families welcomed 27 local community and business leaders into the wing during a Feb. 5 ceremony inducting them as honorary squadron, group and wing commanders.

The annual ceremony - which kicked off this year's Winter Bash celebration - was intended to further cement "the strong relationship that exists between the base and civilian communities," said Col. Scott Reese, wing vice commander.

"It [the honorary commander program] has helped us foster a positive, long-term partnership with the community, which you see reflected every day. It is one of the things that makes an assignment to Grand Forks such a positive experience," said Colonel Reese.

The program works by pairing a community leader with the command chief, the director of staff, and each commander here. These honorary commanders participate in unit and wing

functions throughout the year - in effect, becoming a part of their units. The induction ceremony reflects that role; honorary commanders accept the wing flag in the same manner as officers do when they assume command.

"The honorary commander program provides community members with a better understanding of the professional and personal lives of military families and what goes on at the base," said Dennis Potter, honorary wing vice commander and chairman of the Grand Cities Military Affairs Committee.

"In turn, we provide the military families a look into our lives and provide a window into community activities."

One testament to the bond formed by the program is the level of community support the base receives. Operation Enduring Friendship has provided more than \$250 million in free and discounted tickets to base members for local sporting and cultural events.

Although most of this year's hon-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rick Lisum

Dr. Ben Clayburgh receives the wing flag from Lt. Col. Rob Steed, 319th Medical Operations Squadron commander, during the Honorary Commander Induction Ceremony Saturday at the Northern Lights Club.

orary commanders served last year, four new ones were also inducted: Jeanne Stenberg, honorary Comptroller Squadron commander; Jerry Youngberg, honorary Operations

Support Squadron commander; Robert Kerr, honorary Communications Squadron commander; and Jeff Westrem, honorary Medical Support Squadron commander.

Base donates homes to Native American Tribes

By Capt. Michael Meridith
Public affairs

The base plans to donate more than 20 housing units to North Dakota Native American tribes this summer as part of the decade-old Operation Walking Shield program.

The base has previously supported the program, donating more than 460 excess housing units to 11 tribes in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

Current plans call for the donation of eight duplexes and four single-family homes to North Dakota's Turtle Mountain and Fort Berthold tribes between early June and mid-July.

The houses average 1,300 square feet and have three or four bedrooms. Also, the base plans to donate more houses to the program in the near future.

According to Chris Powell, who leads the base's efforts on Walking Shield, the

introduction of new Air Force-size standards would've meant costly upgrades to existing housing.

"It's a win-win situation," said Mr. Powell. "We're able to help the Native American community with houses that are in very good condition, while at the

same time saving taxpayer money. Also avoiding demolition means we don't add to area landfills."

Operation Walking Shield, established in 1994, is a collaborative effort between 35 tribes and seven government agencies, including the

Department of Defense.

"We're grateful to have an opportunity to help improve the quality of life of the Native American community, while at the same time maintain a history of good stewardship of the environment and tax dollars," said Mr. Powell.



File photo

The base plans to donate homes to local Native American tribes. Eight duplexes and four single-family homes are to be donated between early June and mid-July. More than 460 homes have been previously donated.

Fuels Airmen fill aircraft, support War on Terror

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
416th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

SOUTH WEST ASIA - On a busy morning here, fuels technicians from three different Air Mobility Command bases have five R-11 fuel trucks on the airfield topping off a C-130 Hercules.

It doesn't really matter where the planes are going, all that matters is they have the fuel to get to the fight, said Master Sgt. Scott Ross, fuels manager.

"It's been said that a 'pilot is a pedestrian' if his plane has no fuel," Sergeant Ross said, who is deployed here from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. "Our job involves a lot more than putting gas on planes though. Our flight has many talented people who can do it all, from maintenance on our trucks to testing the quality of fuel that goes on the aircraft."

Senior Airman Noah Myhrum, a fuels distribution journeyman deployed from McChord AFB, Wash., said in addition to fueling aircraft part of his job includes receiving and shipping cryogenics tanks with liquid oxygen, which are crucial aviation breathing equipment for aircrews. "If we do our job right, it completes the chain of events to success - ensuring cargo, troops, and other mission-essential supplies get where they are needed."

"Our trucks will hold up to 6,000 gallons of fuel," Airman Rindo said. "To fuel a C-17, you could use up to four or five truck loads. For a C-130, it takes about one truck-full of fuel to top it off the Hercules."

With those thousands of gallons of fuel moving every day, someone has to follow where it goes.

"We have to keep track of all the fuel we distribute," Sergeant Ross said. "You might imagine that it takes long to reach a million gallons distributed. However, during wartime the amount of fuel we move is a tremendous and it's just a fact of life - business as usual."

Supporting the war effort is what makes their work here gratifying.

"I'm proud to be a part of the Global War on Terrorism," said Senior Airman Jason Vike, fuels distribution journeyman from Grand Forks AFB. "We need to stop terrorism, otherwise events like Sept. 11 could happen again."

Senior Airman Carl McIntyre, from McChord, added, "When we look back on the freedoms our country has, I can say I helped keep them in place."

For Senior Airman Miriah Campbell, deployed from Charleston AFB, S.C., to the challenges of being of being deployed, whether fueling the aircraft, doing daily accounting, or even inspecting the fuel trucks, goes better when you have a great team to work with.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Senior Airman Justin Madsen, 416th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron carries a hose from a R-11 fuel truck with a look of grim determination while enroute to fuel an aircraft.

Sergeant Ross said when they call a "operation complete" to their deployment, it won't be an end to the friendships built. Nor will it end the pride from making a difference in winning the war.

"We are a family away from family and we take care of each other while

we are here," Sergeant Ross said. "I have not seen another group that is so close -our roots run deep. But the fact is we are fighting a war here against an enemy that is as elusive as a leak in a fuel line. We will win this fight by doing our job, as fuels Airmen to put our birds in the air."

Reduce threat, report suspicious activity

By Special Agent Matt Lebsack
AFOSI Det 320

An anti-terrorism initiative from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations is making great strides here and around the world.

The program, "Eagle Eyes," aims to prevent terrorism by encouraging and helping Airmen and citizens report terrorist planning activities. The program encourage rapid follow-up investigations and information-sharing to other levels of command and law-enforcement agencies.

Terrorism is nearly always preceded by planning and is observable if you know what to look for. Eagle Eyes seeks to educate people, both on and off base, about what to do if you see something suspicious.

The anti-terrorism office here is a full partner in this initiative.

Widespread promotion of the program is critical to its success.

Agents and security forces can't be everywhere, so we need the eyes and ears of everyone.

There are seven categories of suspicious activities that warrant reporting:

Surveillance: This includes someone recording or monitoring activities, such as the use of cameras (either still or video), note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices.

Elicitation: People or organizations attempting to gain information about vulnerabilities, response capabilities, or people. Elicitation attempts may be made by mail, fax, telephone, e-mail, or in person. A common tactic is to question people at local restaurants and bars when they are more relaxed and their guard is down.

Tests of security: Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.

Acquiring supplies: Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, ID badges, decals (or the equipment to manufacture such items) or any other sensitive items.

Suspicious persons out of place: People who

don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else. This includes at border crossings.

Dry run: Putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but it can also pertain to bombings. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

Deploying assets: People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is a person's last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.

In addition to investigating each report, OSI detachments share the information with their headquarters.

The reports are compiled and sent electronically, in near real-time, to other levels of command and law-enforcement agencies.

To report suspicious activity, call the Law Enforcement desk at 141-5351 or OSI at 747-3852.

